

REMARKS / ARGUMENTS

This amendment is filed in response to the Official Action dated October 3, 2006. Claims 25, 57-61 have been cancelled herein without prejudice. Claims 1, 13, 14, 21, 22, 47, 53-56 have been amended to change various spelling from British to American spelling protocols. Further, claims 24 and 33 have been amended as described below.

In the Official Action, the examiner rejected the claims as anticipated under 102 (e) by Bayne, US Patent Publication Number US 2005/0060198 A1, published on Mar. 17, 2005, claiming priority to an application filed Sept. 4, 2004, that was a divisional of application number 09/611355 filed July 6, 2000. Thus, the effective 102(e) date for Bayne is apparently July 6, 2000.

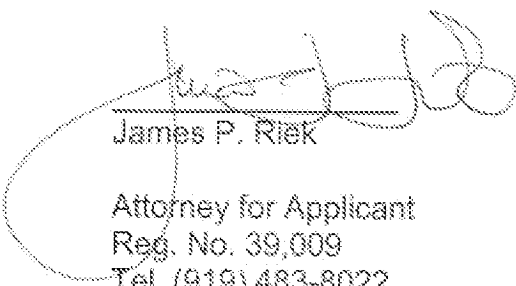
The instant application was filed on 1 April 2001, as a 35 USC 371 United States National Phase Application of Serial No. PCT/EP00/09293 filed 22 September 2000, and claims priority from GB 9923273.8 filed 1 October 1999; GB 0011029.6 filed 9 May 2000; and GB 0020541.9 on 22 August 2000, each filed in the United Kingdom.

Bayne does constitute 102(e) art to the subject matter disclosed in the priority applications, GB 9923273.8 and GB 0011029.6 both of which predate the July 6, 2000 Bayne filing. Moreover, each of the presently pending claims find support in either or both priority filings GB 9923273.8 and GB 0011029.6, when taken in their entirety. Claims 24 and 33 have been amended to reflect claims 24 and 33 in GB 0011029.6. Therefore, the pending claims are not anticipated under 102(e) by Bayne.

As Bayne is not prior art to the claims in question and no other rejections preclude allowance of this case, withdrawal of the 102(e) rejection and allowance of the instant claims is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

Dated: 15 Dec 2006



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